Message from the ICSME 2014 Industry Track
Program Co-Chairs

Experiences from practitioners provide crucial input into future research directions and allow others to learn from successes and failures. The Industry Track of ICSME 2014, the International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution, brought together participants from academia and industry in a venue that highlighted practical and real-world studies of software maintenance and evolution. The goal of this special track was to foster mutually-beneficial links between researchers and practitioners working to improve software maintenance and evolution practices.

We received 22 submissions that included state-of-the-art practice and experience reports, reports from real-world projects and industrial experiences, and evidence-based identification of unsolved research challenges associated to software maintenance and evolution. Each submission was reviewed by three program committee members, followed by an online discussion period that led to 9 accepted papers, which corresponds to an acceptance rate of 41%. All these accepted papers will be published in the conference electronic proceedings, which will also be available in the IEEE Digital Library.

We put together a very interesting program that reports on case studies in software quality process improvement, continuous software quality control, static analysis for large projects, reverse engineering, and legacy system evolution. The program also includes novel applications of known software engineering practices to the evolution of cross-cutting concerns such as performance, software defect prediction applied to hardware, and refactoring of cross-cutting behaviors. The program also includes a panel on technical debt—a metaphor that software developers and managers are increasingly using to communicate key tradeoffs related to release and quality issues. The panel invited well-known researchers and practitioners to discuss and debate strategies for managing debt and how to focus research on critical industry problems.

We thank the members of the program committee for their reviews, and the ICSME organizing committee for all their help and coordination. We want to especially thank the authors of the papers and the participants that made the industry track a success.

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